As 2017 comes to an end, we continue to make progress towards our new location. The previous buildings have been cleared and crews are preparing to break ground. We anticipate construction being complete in 2019.

Our fiscal year 2017 Annual Report has been completed. You can find the report on line at https://www.tulsacounty.org/TulsaCounty/juv_news.aspx.

As you will see in the report, FY 2017 showed a 24% decrease in referrals and a 27% decrease in the number of youth served by the agency. However, we saw a 4% increase in the rate of adjudication. This increase can be attributed to the Bureau's focus on providing higher risk youth with much needed services to reduce recidivism.

Staff also have increased focus on our Dual Status youth (youth that are affected by the deprived and delinquent courts). Through community collaborations and our Probation Department's dedication, we are beginning a new Dually Involved youth diversion program to prevent more youth from penetrating the justice system.
Congratulations to Tamara Sarra-Porter on her 12th anniversary with TCFCJJ! Tamara is a member of the Intake team. Keep up the good work!

We would also like to recognize Josh Hogan, Probation Supervisor on his 11th anniversary with TCFCJJ. We look forward to many more.

Big shout out to Rebecca van Tonder with the Intake team. She is celebrating her 23rd anniversary.

Way to go Rebecca Peters on 14 years with TCFCJJ. Rebecca is an Intake Counselor. Thank you for your dedication.

Congratulations Kevin Pykiet on celebrating 10 years with TCFCJJ. Kevin is a member of the Intake Department. Here’s to many more!
Christine Pumphrey has worked for the Tulsa County Family Center for Juvenile Justice for just over 17 years in various capacities. She currently serves as the Fiscal Officer. She is the mother of three and the proud grandmother of five. TCFJJ is very glad to have Christine as an employee.

We would like to recognize Pamela Funsch (Probation Coordinator), Felicia Howlett (Probation Counselor), and Dr. Kathy Lafortune (Psychological Services) for speaking on behalf of our youth, specifically youth affected by human trafficking, at the Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry (TMM) fundraiser. TMM has a legacy of finding solutions to systemic problems in our city, like the Day Center, Youth Services, Meals on Wheels, and RSVP.

TMM will be partnering with multiple agencies and communities across our city to ensure that we will be able to provide housing and the support system to help traumatized young girls begin healing and become productive members of our society. Currently there are minimal resources at best and none at worst. These girls need specialized care and other girls that are not being trafficked also need services.

TCFCJJ will be patterning with TMM to create a liaison program and foster placements to address the lack of services.

Robert Mouser, Clinical Supervisor, would like to send a special congratulations to Kyra and Blong for their recent graduation from Northeastern State University. Kyra and Blong have a part of our internship program at the Bureau providing therapy to youth in Detention, Phoenix Rising, and on Probation.
Nurses in juvenile detention are often the first health care professional to see a resident concerning any medical conditions. A thorough assessment allows the nurse to determine care requirements. The juvenile residents enter the facility from a variety of environments that require assessment to determine the resident's needs. A relationship of trust takes time to develop. The nurse often has the benefit of creating a therapeutic relationship due to the services provided in a clinical setting.

All residents entering the facility are screened for immediate medical and mental health needs. These may include alcohol or drug withdrawal, suicidal ideation, mental health status, trauma and acute medical needs, or infections. During the initial clinic visit, a physical evaluation is performed including but not limited to vital statistics and a health history of the resident and their family. The resident has the opportunity to express any concerns regarding their medical needs. Staff often reach out to the resident's guardians to gain additional medical histories. Keen observation of the resident's behavior is critical for assessing mental and physical health.

If any abnormal behavior is observed, staff are immediately notified and given instructions for care. Any concerns regarding medications or allergies are considered during this initial evaluation. If the resident has medical issues that have not been treated, the doctor is consulted or a referral is made to an appropriate doctor in the community. Residents are also seen in the clinic to manage chronic conditions such as hypertension, infections, or injuries requiring daily dressing changes.

Because many medications, even over the counter ones, can be misused, medication needs must be individually assessed by the registered nurse. Medications are distributed several times a day and residents are observed swallowing their meds. Standard protocols allow the nurse to administer over the counter medications for simple conditions like athlete's foot, constipation, or the common cold and cough. During a resident's time in detention, they are educated regarding the appropriate use of their medication as well as possible side effects. The nurse regularly evaluates medication effectiveness and appropriate actions are taken should there be a change needed.

Residents are also seen by request. This request could come directly from the resident, staff members, or court staff. Residents are prioritized by need. If necessary, a resident may be referred to the emergency room or a specialist for procedures that cannot be completed at the detention facility. Guardians and all necessary staff are notified immediately and transportation is arranged.
Innovation is Happening by Alondo Edwards

The word innovation is defined as “the act or process of inventing or introducing something new” in the Encarta English dictionary. It is a word rarely used when speaking of juvenile detention facilities. Typically we prefer words like safety and security. Concepts like tradition and reliability don’t always lend themselves to creating or starting something new. While our traditions and insistence on safety and security ground us, we must not allow them to block our vision of the future. That’s why in an attempt to further empower the children and families we work with a new era has begun.

It all started simply enough with a brainstorming conversation between the Clinical Supervisor and the Superintendent of Detention. The discussion centered on providing more positive programming to not only reach the youth in our detention facility, but to their parents and guardians. Reaching both could have a tremendous impact on reducing recidivism. Several months later, the Clinical Supervisor returned to the Superintendent’s office excited about a new program that he, along with his interns would be implementing. That day we started a brand new program that had never been tried in a juvenile detention facility in Oklahoma. A program to bring youth and their families together to work on skills to strengthen the family as a unit, while the youth was still in custody. The “Strengthening Families” curriculum would be implemented by a team of licensed treatment staff, including a Licensed Clinical Social worker, Licensed Professional Counselor and of course the important interns.

The Clinical Supervisor, Robert Mouser, has worked diligently with Director Justin Jones, to develop and create a sustainable space for this unique program. Mr. Mouser was able to collaborate with the local universities and recruit a fantastic team of Graduate and Doctoral student interns. It’s clear that his team consisting of Heidi Pham, Blong Lor, Ashley Harvey, Kira Clark, and Brook Tuttle are deeply committed to help at risk youth seek the opportunity for a better day. The first class wrapped up in the fall and demonstrated promising results. According to some detention staff working directly with the youth, “the kids involved in the new program really showed a greater focus and commitment to getting out and staying out of detention”. We anticipate even more positive results as the program grows.

Detention "Day in the Life video"

We would like to extend a big thank you to Heather Garcia with the Tulsa County IT Department and the Detention staff for working together to create a wonderful video for potential employees. Ms. Garcia is the Technical Trainer for Tulsa County and did a fantastic job on filming and editing the video. The video was created to provide applicants with a real understanding of what a typical day is like for a Detention employee.
Tulsa Area Community Intervention Center (TACIC) recently went through a big transition, as Adam Strange resigned as Coordinator to take on a position with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services as a permanency planning specialist with the Child Protective Services Unit. Adam leaves the Bureau with over five years' experience. Adam will be missed but we wish him well in his new endeavor.

“Thank you all for the work you do on a daily basis to carry out the functions of this program. I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of this team for over five years. Please remember the work you do makes a difference in this county and in the lives of the juveniles we serve.” - Adam Strange

Stephen Brown has been chosen to fill the vacated Coordinator position, and brings with him over six years of experience with TACIC. Stephen supports the 11p.m. to 7a.m. shifts. Stephen continues to be responsible for maintaining the TACIC database and assisting to create statistical reports, among other duties as a coordinator.

TACIC has recently been folded into Detention services, as we plan for the impending move to our new building. This change will provide more support for law enforcement officers who need to utilize both departments. The Superintendent of Detention, will be responsible for the coordination of both groups.

TACIC has been discussing a potential collaborative effort with
an outside mental/behavioral health agency, in the hopes of improving its ability to provide families with much needed resources. This may be especially helpful for youth who experience multiple visits to TACIC, sometimes before an initial adjudication or multiple municipal charges. As of mid-October 2017, TACIC has served 296 youth. The Tulsa Police Department continues to contribute the largest utilization of the Center at 211 (71.3%). African American youth continue to be highly represented in the utilization, though percentages are down about 5% to 43.6%. Caucasian contact is up some 2.2% from the same time last year to 37.2%. It’s important to note that overall contact with youth at TACIC is on a downturn. Comparatively speaking, this time last year (fiscal year 2017) CIC had served 365 youth. The year prior to that (fiscal year 2016) CIC had served 461 youth. This represents a trend that can be tracked back to fiscal year 2014 for TACIC. The majority of youth who are brought to TACIC have misdemeanor charges (currently 69.7%), felonies are currently represented at 30.3% of offenses brought to CIC. Of the felonious crimes listed, most are property or drug related and not crimes against a person. This is not offered to downplay the seriousness of any crime, just to place some perspective in light of high profile juvenile crime cases, and is only measured from CIC contact rates presently. We at CIC will continue to remain committed to honing our diversionary efforts and assisting in holding accountable the youth who are brought to us and entrusted for care.

Cortez Tunley – Program Administrator
CAREER SNAPSHOT

QuikTrip Chefs Nick and Ryan visited Phoenix Rising (PR) to share their experiences as chefs, their histories of becoming chefs, and how they develop recipes for QuikTrip stores across the country. They spoke about the education and experience needed, where to begin if you wanted to become a chef, and answered many questions about culinary arts. They also brought ingredients for the students to experiment making chocolate chip cookies. Each student and staff member were given cookie dough and about fifteen types of toppings. Each student was able to create their own unique cookies.

OUR FIRST GRADUATE

On November 10th, in the second six-weeks of the trimester, Phoenix Rising had its first graduate! This student worked diligently to complete all of his coursework, online courses, and senior portfolio before November 10th.

COLLEGE VISITS

Ten PR students attended a college field trip to Rogers State University in Claremore. Students were specifically interested in the Game Development program as well as the Nursing program. Through these trips, students are able to envision themselves attending a large university and becoming a part of one of those communities.

In November, ten students also made a college visit to Connors State College in Muskogee. They learned about the various services offered such as the Student Support Services which is a new federally funded program designed to improve the retention and graduation rate of targeted students (first generation college students, underrepresented minorities, etc). They also have tutoring services, athletics programs, and scholarship opportunities.

The Phoenix Rising Alternative School Foundation continues to seek individuals to join the Board. For more information, please contact Hayley Garrison at (918) 596-5938 or hgarrison@tulsacounty.org.
This October, members of our team attended the 2017 Zarrow Mental Health Symposium. An annual 2-day conference, the Zarrow Symposium aims to provide those working in and alongside the mental health field with emerging knowledge, research, and evidence-based interventions to help create a lasting impact on the populations they work with.

This year’s theme, “Challenging Injustice and Discrimination,” was significant to the youth and families we work with, as it highlighted best practices when working in the juvenile justice system and provided insight into improving collaboration amongst the law enforcement and mental health fields. In addition, the conference also had an important focus on identifying and treating childhood trauma and mental illness. Among the most notable of speakers was Dr. Cornel West (Harvard University), who spoke passionately about current social/political issues and movements impacting our nation today, and Dr. Derald Wing Sue (Columbia), who highlighted his research on racial micro aggressions and their impact on individuals and society as a whole. With so many knowledgeable and impassioned speakers and trainers, the Zarrow Symposium provided our team members with an opportunity to expand their skills as well as become further inspired to continue to be strong advocates for the youth and families we serve each day.

Save the Date!

We are proud to be an original member of the Tulsa Child Trafficking Task Force and to partner with Oklahoma Human Trafficking Task Force and the Community Service Council to bring the Second Annual Oklahoma United: Bringing Trafficking out of the Shadows Conference. This awareness event will be held February 13-14, 2018 at the Tulsa Tech campus in Owasso.

The goal of this conference is to bring awareness about human trafficking that is happening in our community. Breakout sessions will include education of trafficking, victimology, case studies, as well as multi disciplinary approaches to stopping human trafficking and trauma informed approaches for the victims and survivors. Richard Harris, Dr. Kathy La Fortune, Judge Wilma Palmer, and Paula Royce will be featured speakers at this event.
Interesting people have a special magnetism. They tell incredible stories and lead unusual lives. But what exactly makes them so captivating?

They're curious more than anything else. An interesting person is always excited to explore the world, and this energy radiates outward.

Some people are naturally interesting, but there are also ways to learn to be more engaging. Dr. Clair Nixon is known throughout Texas A&M as an incredibly interesting accounting professor (an oxymoron if there ever was one). Accounting is a difficult subject to make interesting and fun, which is what makes Dr. Nixon so special. He's so good at making things interesting that he doesn't just teach accounting, he also gives lectures on how to be more interesting.

Indeed, anyone can learn to become more interesting, which is a wonderful thing, because being interesting can help you strengthen your network, win more clients, and lead more effectively.

There are several habits that many interesting people have in common. Sometimes these habits form naturally, but they are more often than not the result of conscious effort. Here's what interesting people do to make themselves engaging, unusual, and hypnotizing.

**They are passionate.** Jane Goodall, a bona fide interesting person, left her home in England and moved to Tanzania at age 26 to begin studying chimpanzees. It became her life's work, and Goodall has devoted herself fully to her cause while inspiring many others to do the same. Interesting people don't just have interests; they have passions, and they devote themselves completely to them.

**They try new things.** Interesting people do what interests them. They know what they want, and they're brave enough to take the steps to get there. This often means trying new things—things at which they're often terrible at first. The very act of seeking new experiences also happens to be great for your mood, and people who are happy are magnetic and far more interesting to be around than downers.

**They don't hide their quirks.** Interesting people often have unusual preferences that don't fit the norm. They're open and unabashed about who they are, which gives everyone a good look at these interesting tendencies. Billionaire Warren Buffett, for example, has never been suited to the high-rolling lifestyle. Instead, he still lives in the same modest house he bought in 1958 for $31,500. It might seem quirky—or even strange—for such an incredibly wealthy man to live so frugally, but Buffett doesn't sacrifice his preferences because of what's expected of him.

**They avoid the bandwagon.** Nothing is more boring than following the bandwagon, and interesting people are intent on forging their own paths. There's often nothing wrong with what everyone else is doing; it's just that interesting people are innovators, who break conformity to pursue new, exciting, and yes, interesting ideas.
They check their egos at the door. An egomaniac is never interesting. Egomaniacs are always posturing, always worrying about how they’ll come across. It’s exhausting, and it’s also dishonest. Take Oprah Winfrey—an interesting and interested person. In a speech to the Stanford University graduating class of 2008, she said, “The trick is to learn to check your ego at the door and start checking your gut instead. Every right decision I've made—every right decision I've ever made—has come from my gut. And every wrong decision I've ever made was a result of me not listening to the greater voice of myself.” Oprah's advice is so important: listen to your values, goals, and ambitions, rather than worrying about what will make you look good.

They’re always learning. To interesting people, the world has infinite possibilities. This curiosity about the unknown leads to constant learning, fueled by an ever-burning desire to discover the unknown. Despite his intelligence and accomplishments, Albert Einstein kept a sense of wonder throughout his life that made him continue to ask questions about the world. Like Einstein, interesting people are in a constant state of wonder.

They share what they discover. The only thing interesting people enjoy as much as learning is sharing their discoveries with others. While some will spin engaging yarns about their exciting travels, there's more to it than that. Interesting people are interesting because they feel out their conversational partner to see what sparks that person's interest. They don’t share to expose all of the interesting things they've done; they share for other people to enjoy.

They don’t worry about what others think of them. Nothing is more uninteresting than someone who holds their true self back because they're afraid that other people might not like it. Instead, interesting people are true to themselves wherever they are, whoever they're with, and in whatever they're doing. Interesting people are authentic to a fault. The famous English author Charles Dickens personified this. No matter where he was working—in a friend's house or in a hotel—he would bring specific pens and objects and arrange them precisely. While his behavior may have seemed strange, he was always true to himself.

Bringing It All Together
It might not always be easy to incorporate these habits into daily life, but that’s what makes the people who do so interesting—they go against the grain, and that’s undeniably interesting. While I know that you’re already interesting, never forget to keep exploring the world and staying true to yourself.
Joy in the Cause Donations

We want to say thank you to Joy in the Cause for their generous donation of Mavis dogs for our kids in the deprived courts. These will sure put a smile on many faces!

Joy in the Cause also received a generous donation from First Mortgage of Tulsa which allowed them to donate 150 backpacks and 25 baby bags for parents and clients served by the Tulsa County Family Center for Juvenile Justice!

We also want to give a big thanks to J. David Jewelry for their generous donation of 100 beautiful pearl necklaces for the female victims of human trafficking served by the Bureau. We especially love the quote that was included, "You are fearfully and wonderfully made. Like this pear, you are uniquely one of a kind."

Each necklace, backpack, and baby bag will make a positive impact on the lives of those we come into contact with every day.

Girl Power was nominated for the Tulsa Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition's Impact Award. Girl Power was nominated by Samantha Wade of DVIS and recognized for demonstrating excellence in the area of teen pregnancy prevention and contributing to the coalition's mission and vision. Ms. Wade stated in her nomination that Girl Power provides a safe and non-judgmental space for girls to share, learn, and come together as a community of strong, empowered young women. Congratulations!
Family Drug Court Updates

Family Drug Court (FDC) recently submitted an application to become a peer mentoring drug court. FDC has been notified that they are in the final round to becoming a nationally recognized family drug court.

In the past few months, FDC has seen an increase in clients. Year to date they have served close to 45 clients and hope to expand even more. In order to better serve the clients, FDC started a Facebook page for the “Parent After Care” program. This program is a client ran support group to provide support to FDC clients after graduation.

During the month of September, FDC graduated 5 clients from Family Drug Court and will see 5 more graduates in December. We are looking forward to hearing what great things they do in the future.

Our Therapist, Heidi, along with two of our interns attending the NSU Intern Fair to recruit new mental health interns for TCFCJJ.
The Phoenix Rising Alternative School Foundation can make a difference one dollar at a time!

Go to https://tulsacf.org and click "Give Now" then choose "Phoenix Rising Foundation."

Or mail a check to:
PRASF
315 S. Gilcrease Museum Road
Tulsa, OK 74127

*all donations are tax deductible

Phoenix Rising Alternative School Foundation

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Juvenile delinquents are 13% less likely to graduate high school

They are 22% more likely to drop out of high school than their peers

20% of PRAS Youth have or currently are experiencing homelessness

60% of colleges consider arrest records when reviewing applications

Education plays a critical role in the rehabilitation of juveniles

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www.tulsacounty.org/juvenile

facebook.com/TulsaJBDC